

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An information processing apparatus,  
comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of an  
image pickup object to produce image data;

detection means for detecting a variation of the  
state of the image pickup object from within the image  
data produced by said image pickup means and generating a  
trigger signal; and

storage means for storing the image data produced  
by said image pickup means in synchronism with the  
trigger signal generated by said detection means.

2. An information processing apparatus according  
to claim 1, wherein said detection means detects a  
variation of a brightness value of the image data as the  
variation of the state of the image pickup object.

3. An information processing apparatus according  
to claim 1, wherein said detection means detects a motion  
vector of the image data as the variation of the state of  
the image pickup object.

4. An information processing apparatus according  
to claim 1, wherein said detection means detects the  
variation of the state of the image pickup object based  
on a predetermined image pattern of the image data.

5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein all of a CCD video camera which forms said image pickup means and a hardware module and a software module which form said detection means and said storage means are integrated in a portable housing.

6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means calculates a difference value between a sum total of pixel values of all pixels of image data for one frame fetched prior by a predetermined interval of time and a sum total of pixel values of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time, and, if the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determines that a variation of the state has occurred with the image pickup object and generates the trigger signal.

7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said storage means stores the image data for one frame fetched prior by the predetermined interval of time at a point of time when the trigger signal is supplied from said detection means.

8. An information processing method, comprising:  
a first pixel value calculation processing step of calculating a sum total of pixel values of all pixels of

image data for one frame fetched prior by a predetermined interval of time by image pickup means which picks up an image of an image pickup object;

a second pixel value calculation processing step of calculating a sum total of pixel values of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time by said image pickup means;

a detection processing step of calculating a difference value between the value calculated in the first pixel value calculation processing step and the value calculated in the second pixel value calculation processing step and, when the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determining that a variation of the state has occurred with the image pickup object and generating a trigger signal; and

a storage processing step of storing the image data for one frame fetched prior by the predetermined interval of time at a point of time when the trigger signal is generated in the detection processing step.

9. A medium which causes a computer to execute an information processing program comprising:

a first pixel value calculation processing step of calculating a sum total of pixel values of all pixels of image data for one frame fetched prior by a predetermined

interval of time by image pickup means which picks up an image of an image pickup object;

a second pixel value calculation processing step of calculating a sum total of pixel values of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time by said image pickup means;

a detection processing step of calculating a difference value between the value calculated in the first pixel value calculation processing step and the value calculated in the second pixel value calculation processing step and, when the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determining that a variation of the state has occurred with the image pickup object and generating a trigger signal; and

a storage processing step of storing the image data for one frame fetched prior by the predetermined interval of time at a point of time when the trigger signal is generated in the detection processing step.